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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Relations with Russian Attaches		
AREA REPORTED ON Argentina	FROM (Agency) Air Attache, Buenos Aires, Argentina	
DATE OF REPORT 22 December 1954	DATE OF INFORMATION 21 December 1954	EVALUATION A-1
PREPARED BY (Officer) Col George R. Herman, Air Attache	SOURCE Personal Contact	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112--Part II.) Submitted herewith is a text of a letter submitted 21 December 1954 to the Directorate of Intelligence outlining current activities of the Russian military attaches accredited to Argentina.		
 GEORGE R. HERRMAN Colonel, USAF Air Attache		
DIA Declassification/Release Instructions on File		
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Air Attache Buenos Aires, Argentina	REPORT NO. IR-237-54	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
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1. During the past six months the Russian military attaches accredited to Argentina have significantly increased the scope of their social and intelligence collection activities. There are three Russian attaches currently residing in Argentina who are accredited to the Army, Navy and Air Force: Colonel Prokofi P. Romanenko, Captain Nicolai Perov, and Major Constantin Medkov. Additionally, there is one Naval officer, Captain Alexander Morosov, who specifically is accredited to the Argentine Navy. The senior member of this group and the directing head of their attache activities is Colonel Romanenko. Previous to this increased level of activity during the past six months, the Russians were backward and unfriendly; however, at the present time they give the impression of being a friendly and courteous group and one that is specifically interested in cultivating good social relations with the military representatives of all nations accredited to Argentina. They seem to have paid particular attention during this time to cultivating American military attaches.

2. Members of this office as well as the Army and Navy Attaches are constantly brought into contact with the Russian attaches at diplomatic social functions. It has been the policy of this office to treat the Russians in a manner that is civil and courteous without being particularly friendly. In view of their effort to cultivate the Latins and the Americans, it is believed that the time has come to request specific guidance in the matter of relationships with the Russian attaches accredited to Argentina.

3. The entire community of attaches has been observing very closely the efforts of the Russians to improve their social relations and they are particularly observant of the manner in which the Russian overtures are responded to by the Americans. Lacking previous specific guidance on this matter from the Directorate of Intelligence, the American Ambassador was contacted in regard to a specific invitation to a social function to be held in the private home of two of the Russian attaches, Colonel Romanenko and Captain Morosov. Ambassador Nufer suggested that the several attaches would be conforming to accepted diplomatic custom by attending the social function and although he said that the decision in the matter was fully in the hands of the principal attaches, he suggested that participation would be advisable since his guidance prohibits only attendance at social functions celebrating the so-called liberation of the satellite nations by the Red Army.

4. Pending the receipt of specific guidance, therefore, decision has been made by this office to attend Colonel Romanenko's party. This decision was made in order to enable this office to gain information regarding the Russians, their activities, their friends, and the conditions under which they live. At the same time, in order to maintain a reserve as regards participation, it has been decided that members of this office will attend without their wives. Attendance without wives will be significant to the other Latin-American attaches, since it is customary for wives to accompany attaches to all social functions in Argentina.

5. The acceptance of an invitation from the Russians implies a responsibility that there should be reciprocation in some form of entertainment. This is not mandatory but it is the generally accepted procedure. Up to the present, representatives of Russia or the satellites have been specifically excluded from social functions offered by military attaches of the United States.

6. It is requested that this office be given policy guidance in the matter of dealing with the Russian attaches. Up to the present, it has been possible to observe limited social relationships at social functions given by third parties. However, it is believed that with this change in attitude on the part of the Russians, "straddling the fence" will no longer be possible and participation or non-participation with the Russians is a matter for decision by Headquarters, USAF.

G.R.H.

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